Press Release

Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst meets with Minister of Agriculture Hussein Hajj Hassan

Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon, met with H.E. the Minister of Agriculture, Hussein Hajj Hassan. Ambassador Eichhorst informed the Minister of the recent decision taken by the European Commission to approve the import of honey from Lebanon into all 27 Member States of the European Union. Lebanon's revised plan for the monitoring of honey quality was submitted by the authorities to the European Union in early 2012 and was found to be compliant with the European Union requirements.

Further discussions focused on on-going bilateral issues between Lebanon and the European Union in order to better facilitate the trade in agro-food products.

Ambassador Eichhorst and Minister Hajj Hassan discussed the importance for Lebanon to participate in the EU's new initiative, the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agricultural and Rural Development (ENPARD), which was launched as part of the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy issued in May 2011. Ambassador Eichhorst confirmed that the European Union offers a dialogue on ENPARD to all partner countries, and is prepared to assist in implementing ENPARD policies and related reforms for all those committed to make agriculture/rural development a focal sector in their cooperation with the EU.

Separately, Ambassador Eichhorst and Minister Hajj Hassan had also an exchange which touched upon the developments in the region.